

small businesses, and suffering communities.

Our CR is now carefully tailored—carefully tailored—to account for this debt. This is as reasonable as it gets. So for Republicans to suddenly throw their hands in the air and abscond from their responsibility to pay debt that they proudly supported is nothing short of a dine-and-dash of historic proportions.

Republicans racked trillions of dollars of debt under President Trump and are demanding American families foot the bill. What will this do? It could stop payments to Social Security recipients. It could stop payments to veterans. It could raise interest rates, making a mortgage or car loan more expensive. It could cause local governments to pay more in interest, and that might mean increased taxes for people. This is playing with fire. Playing games with the debt ceiling is playing with fire and putting it on the backs of the American people.

Of course, there is a very quick and easy way to make sure we avoid all of this from becoming even a possibility. Republicans simply don't have to vote to force a default. It is that simple.

Democrats will do the right thing and the responsible thing when the continuing resolution comes for a vote on the floor. We will see who among the Republican conference will do likewise.

NOMINATION OF ROHIT CHOPRA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, in addition to keeping our government open and maintaining our government's full faith and credit, Senate Democrats will also continue working this week on confirming even more of President Biden's nominees to the bench and to his administration.

For the information of my colleagues, later today, I will move to file a discharge petition on the nomination of Rohit Chopra to serve as Director of the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau. In the wake of the financial crisis of 2008, the CFPB was created under the Obama administration with a simple mandate: protect American consumers from predatory financial practices.

Rohit Chopra is the right man to lead this Agency after it languished under the Presidency of Donald Trump. Trump didn't really care about the average person being taken advantage of by the big financial institutions, despite his claim he is a working-class President. Mr. Chopra, on the other hand, has a long history of defending student loan borrowers from unscrupulous for-profit colleges and already served in the CFPB under President Obama, where he was defending the rights of middle-class people who might be taken advantage of by rapacious financial institutions. He has the experience; he has the dedication; and he will have the support of Senate Democrats when his nomination is

brought to the floor this afternoon or later this week.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, over the next few weeks, Senate Democrats will also move forward on a number of noncontroversial nominees critical to keeping our country safe and advancing American diplomacy abroad.

Over the last few months, there has been a growing backlog on these nominees due to Republican obstructionism, and it is our hope, starting this week, we can move to secure their confirmation.

But, last week, a number of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle announced they will seek to delay these nominees for no other reason than to score cheap political points in an effort to win fans on the far right. It is no secret. People leading this are all competing to run for President on the Republican side in 2024, and they are in feverish—feverish—pursuit of the extreme right in this country, which they think will help them win a primary. So they tie this Chamber in a knot but, more importantly, jeopardize the security of Americans.

This is unacceptable. Every one of these nominees won bipartisan, if not unanimous, support in committee. That same level of support should continue on the floor. The Republicans who are delaying the confirmation of these nominees are deliberately making the American people less safe—less safe on the foreign policy side, where we need nominees to the Defense and State Departments, and less safe on the domestic side as well, where there is talk of holding up U.S. attorneys who are in charge of prosecuting Federal laws in all the States.

Under normal circumstances, all of these nominees should be dispensed with speedily and without controversy, but because of the self-interest of a few obstructionists, the Senate could be forced to drag out what is normally a simple process.

I urge these colleagues to drop their theatrics immediately and allow these nominees to these critical Agencies to go through.

VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now a quick update on voting rights. Last week, several of my colleagues introduced the Freedom to Vote Act, a powerful new bill that would tackle head-on voter suppression, partisan gerrymandering, and the scourge of dark money.

The legislation also responds to recommendations from election officials and includes new provisions to boost confidence in our elections, including critical anti-election subversion reforms, a flexible voter ID standard, and commonsense voter list maintenance requirements. This legislation will promote greater confidence in our elec-

tions, and I believe all Senators—Democrat, Republican, and Independent alike—should support the package.

At the end of last week, I moved to place the Freedom to Vote Act on the legislative calendar, enabling me to schedule a vote on this bill in the immediate future.

This week, my colleague Senator MANCHIN, who helped craft this legislation and relied on many of the good practices in West Virginia to do so—Senator MANCHIN, this week, is making an effort, a good-faith effort, to reach colleagues on the other side of the aisle to win support of the Freedom to Vote Act, and, in fact, he has been meeting with a number of Republican colleagues.

We are committed to finding common ground, if there is common ground to be found. We look forward to hearing what changes Republicans might want to make. And if Republicans engage earnestly and honestly, we will work with them. The voting rights working group I convened earlier this year is prepared to help in that effort, but we need to move quickly. Time is of the essence.

As Senator MANCHIN said earlier this year regarding congressional action on voting rights, "Inaction is not an option." I agree with Senator MANCHIN in that regard.

To that end, it is my intention to hold a vote for the Freedom to Vote Act here on the Senate floor. If Republicans are unwilling to move forward, Democrats will have to move on our own. Inaction from Republicans on voting rights is not an excuse to do nothing. We are going to take action to make sure we protect our democracy and fight back against the disease of voter suppression, partisan gerrymandering, and election subversion that is metastasizing at the State level.

HAITI

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, and finally on Haiti, we have all seen these horrible images coming from our southern border as Haitian asylum seekers, simply looking to escape tyranny and the problems, that they have sought—have been met at our doorstep with unimaginable indignity.

Images of Haitian migrants being hit with whips and other forms of physical violence is completely unacceptable. This behavior must be addressed, and we must provide accountability. The images turn your stomach. It must be stopped, this kind of violence.

Right now, I am told there are four flights scheduled to deport these asylum seekers back to a country that cannot receive them. Such a decision defies common sense. It also defies common decency and what America is all about. Remember that lady in the harbor in the city in which I live.

So I urge President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas to immediately put a stop to these expulsions and to end this

title 42 policy at our southern border. We cannot continue these hateful and xenophobic Trump policies that disregard our refugee laws. We must allow asylum seekers to present their claims at our ports of entry and be afforded due process.

I commit to work with this administration to provide resources so that we can establish safe, orderly, and humane processes for those seeking protections. Again, the policies that are being enacted now and the horrible treatment of these innocent people who have come to the border must stop immediately.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDER—S. 2765

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2765) to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

TAXES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the senior House Democrat told us back in March of 2020 that COVID presented “a tremendous opportunity to restructure things to fit our vision.”

President Biden said last week that “while this pandemic has been godawful for so many reasons . . . it does present us with an opportunity.”

The reckless taxing-and-spending spree that Washington Democrats are assembling behind closed doors would put more debt, more borrowing, and

more inflation on the shoulders of American families. It would make Washington, DC, dramatically more involved in families’ childcare, their health coverage, their local energy utilities, and on and on.

There are so many controversial changes being crammed into one mega bill that it must be a deliberate strategy: try to achieve everything the far left has wanted for 20 years in one fell swoop before the country has time to realize what hit it.

So today, I am going to focus on just one example. Let’s look at the tax hikes, a staggering historic set of tax hikes; tax hikes on small business, tax hikes on family farms, tax hikes on Americans that would shatter the pledge to spare people earning less than \$400,000 a year, tax hikes that would put even more Americans into unfair double taxation of the death tax, massive taxes on the U.S. economy that would give us one of the least competitive tax structures in the developed world.

For example, even Communist China taxes their own businesses significantly less than President Biden and his allies want America to tax ours.

Tax hike after tax hike after tax hike—a smothering wet blanket thrown onto an economy that is already struggling to fully recover because of the inflation and worker shortages that Democrats’ policies have already unleashed.

So when you add it all up, Democrats want to ram through one of the largest peacetime tax hikes on record, if not the single largest. So let me say that again. Behind closed doors, Washington Democrats are drafting what may very well be the largest peacetime tax hike that our country has literally ever seen.

But this isn’t to say that nobody gets a leg up in this bill. So listen to this. Somehow, mysteriously, many of the Democrats’ favorite groups and special interests come out just fine. Isn’t that fascinating?

For example, their legislation would allow ordinary Americans’ charitable deduction on top of the standard deduction to expire. Ah, but they would replace it with a brandnew tax break of almost exactly the same dollar amount for union dues that go to Big Labor. So you take out a charitable deduction for regular Americans, put in a new one for union dues that would benefit Big Labor. They are scrapping Americans’ extra deduction for donating to charity and replacing it with a special subsidy for union dues for Big Labor.

Really, you can’t make this stuff up. Sorry, Red Cross. Sorry, local churches and houses of worship. Sorry, soup kitchens. Democrats think the Teamsters and the SEIU need the money more than you do.

And they aren’t the only group that Democrats favor, who literally make out like bandits. Look at high-income earners in coastal blue States. The bill that raises taxes on everything that

moves somehow—somehow—makes room for a special, gigantic tax cut for wealthy people who choose to live in high-tax States. More than half the benefit of the so-called SALT policy would go to the top 1 percent of households.

There is also a special tax break for people who choose to purchase expensive electric cars. You get the picture: make U.S. industry less competitive than China in order to massively subsidize the coastal cosmopolitan lifestyle. That is what the Democrats want.

This bill would also create a new national dragnet for ordinary Americans’ banking information. Community banks and credit unions would be hammered with new requirements to report to the feds whenever citizens make transactions—listen to this—in excess of \$600. Community banks and credit unions would have new requirements to report to the Federal Government whenever citizens make transactions in excess of \$600.

Big Brother wants to peer into America’s bank accounts. Here is how one local Kentucky lender described this concept to me: a “flagrant violation of privacy and offense to liberty.”

That pretty well sums it up. So, huge tax hikes on Americans, expensive giveaways for coastal elites, and new government snooping—snooping—into families’ finances.

So that is just one corner of this reckless taxing-and-spending spree that should never see the light of day.

ELECTIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now on a different matter. Last week, Senate Democrats announced what was marketed as a compromise on carving out a bigger role for Washington in elections all across our country.

It was hardly the first time our Democratic colleagues had given their takeover of 50 States’ election laws a makeover. Over the years, it has sometimes been sold as an urgent overhaul of our democracy; other times as just a set of narrow tweaks. But for all of their attempts to change up the pitch, the unfortunate fact is that the bones of the Democrats’ proposal are still the same.

The latest version is only a compromise in the sense that the center left compromised with the far left. Under the hood is the same Frankenstein’s monster that has been there since 2019, years—years—before the State-level actions which Democrats now claim have made it all necessary.

It still makes Washington bureaucrats the de facto board of elections for all 50 States, dictating the terms of things like automatic and same-day voter registration. It still insists on impeding State efforts to ensure integrity of voter rolls through popular, commonsense voter ID measures. It still has government dollars going directly to politicians’ campaigns—that